



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT

LOCAL AND REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLANNING REGULATION (9 VAC 25-780)

ISSUED: April 4, 2005

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES June 3, 2005 at 5:00 P.M.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with §2.2-4007 and §62.1-44.15:01 of the Code of Virginia that the State Water Control Board seeks comment on the proposed Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Regulations (9 VAC 25-780).

This new regulation will establish a planning process and criteria that all local governments will use in the development of local or regional water plans so that they may plan for and provide adequate water to their citizens in a manner that balances the need for environmental protection and future growth. These plans will be reviewed by DEQ and a determination will be made by the State Water Control Board whether the plans comply with this regulation. The plans will be reviewed every five years to assess adequacy and significant changes will require the submission of an amended plan and review by the Board.

LOCALITIES PARTICULARLY AFFECTED: All Virginia localities will be affected by this regulation.

ESTIMATED LOCAL IMPACT (§62.1-44.15:01, Code of Virginia): The cost of developing a local or regional plan that complies with this regulation will vary due to a number of factors. These factors include the level of local staff involvement, the size of the locality or region, the complexity of the current sources of supply and delivery systems, the degree of local need for additional supply, and the types of strategies that are locally identified to address any need in the plans. Depending on these factors, DEQ estimates that it is likely to cost localities between \$13,000 and \$79,000 if the plan is developed using in-house resources and between \$19,000 and \$115,000 if it is developed using a combination of in-house resources and external consultants. Based on the number and size of the localities required to submit local water supply plans, the total cost of developing these plans is estimated to be approximately \$4.5 million if only in-house resources are used and approximately \$6.5 million if a combination of in-house resources and external consultants are used. Localities are also likely to incur costs in reviewing and revising plans every five or ten years. However, DEQ believes that these costs are likely to be much smaller than the costs associated with initially developing the plan. The cost to localities participating in regional water supply plans is likely to be lower. However, an estimate of the cost savings to localities participating in regional plans is not available at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION: In addition to any other comments, the State Water Control Board is particularly seeking comments on the potential costs and benefits of the proposal and any impacts of the regulation on farm and forest land preservation.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so at the public hearings or by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

- Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23240, Attn: Scott Kudlas
- Fax: 804-698-4347
- E-Mail: scott.kudlas@deq.virginia.gov

Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter (including e-mail). In order to be considered, comments **must be received no later than 5:00 PM on June 3, 2005.**

Public Hearings will be held at the following locations:

- DEQ Southwest Regional Office, 355 Deadmore St., Abingdon, VA. 24212, (276) 676-4800: on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, beginning at 2:00 PM.
- DEQ West Central Regional Office, 3019 Peters Creek Road, Roanoke, VA. 24019, (540) 562-6700: on Thursday, May 5, 2005, beginning at 2:00 PM
- DEQ Valley Regional Office, 4111 Early Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801, (540) 574-7800: on Monday, May 9, 2005, beginning at 2:00 PM.
- Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center, 118 East Danville Street, South Hill, VA 23970, (434) 447-7101: on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, beginning at 7:00 PM.
- DEQ South Central Regional Office, 7705 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502, (434) 582-5120: on Wednesday, May 11, 2005, beginning at 2:00 PM.
- DEQ Piedmont Regional Office, 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060, (804) 527-5020: on Thursday, May 12, 2005, beginning at 4:00 PM.
- DEQ Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 583-3800: on Monday, May 16, 2005, beginning at 7:00 PM.
- DEQ Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462, (757) 518-2000: on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Both oral and written comments may be submitted at the hearings.

The hearings will be held at a public facility accessible to persons with disabilities. Any person with questions on the accessibility of the facilities should contact Scott Kudlas at the address above, or phone 804-698-4456.